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operable in a plurality of use positions ranging from an upright position to a fully reclined position, the linear seat recliner comprising:

a housing adapted to be coupled to one of the seat back and the seat bottom;

a latching mechanism coupled to said housing and actuatable relative said housing between a latched position and an unlatched position; and

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a recliner rod including a body having a first end and a second end, said body having a substantially planar top flat diametrically opposed and parallel to a substantially planar bottom flat, said top flat including a plurality of teeth positioned at said first end of said body, said plurality of teeth of said recliner rod selectively engaged with said latching mechanism when said latching mechanism is in said latched position and said second end of said recliner rod adapted to be coupled to the other of the seat back and the seat bottom; and

wherein said latching mechanism prevents relative axial movement of said recliner rod when in said latched position and said latching mechanism allows relative axial movement of said recliner rod when in said unlatched position.

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8. (TWICE AMENDED) A reclining seat assembly comprising:

a seat bottom having a side rail;

a seat back having a support rail pivotally coupled to said side rail;

a linear seat recliner including a housing secured to one of said side rail and said support rail;

a recliner rod having a first end supported for relative linear motion within said housing and a second end having an aperture, said recliner rod having a substantially

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planar top flat having a plurality of teeth formed therein and a substantially planar bottom flat positioned parallel thereto, said second end pivotally coupled to the other of said side rail and said support rail; and

a latching mechanism coupled to said housing and actuatable relative said housing between a latched position where said latching mechanism engages said teeth to prevent relative axial movement of said recliner rod and an unlatched position where said latching mechanism allows relative axial movement of said recliner rod.

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14. (AMENDED) The recliner rod of Claim 13 wherein said top and bottom flats extend from said first end to said second end.

Please cancel Claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.